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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-13 (cancelled)

- 14. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 13 26, characterized in that the medium is air.
- 15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the air contains at least one further gaseous medium.
- 16. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the lyosol is introduced dropwise into the moving air.
- 17. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the lyosol is sprayed into the moving air.
- 18. (Currently amended) A method according to at least one of claim 14, characterized in that the lyosol particles are is screened according to size by the air stream which is directed in opposition to gravity.
- 19. (Currently amended) A method according to at least one of claim 14, characterized in that the velocity of the air stream diminishes in the direction of flow.
- 20. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 13 26, characterized in that the lyosol particles are is trapped in a layer of water.

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- 21. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 13 26, characterized in that the lyosol particles are is formed from silicic acid and mineral acid.
- 22. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 13 26, characterized in that the lyosol is formed from a sodium water-glass solution and hydrochloric acid.

23-25. (Cancelled)

- 26. (New) A method of producing substantially globular aerogels wherein:
 - i) gel forming components are mixed to produce a lyosol;
 - ii) the lyosol is introduced into a moving medium which flows substantially against the direction of gravity to form a substantially globular lyogel; and
 - iii) the substantially globular lyogel is converted to an aerogel.
- 27. (New) A method of producing substantially globular silylated lyogels wherein:
 - i) gel forming components are mixed to produce a lyosol;
 - ii) the lyosol is introduced into a moving medium which flows substantially against the direction of gravity to produce a substantially globular lyogel; and
 - iii) the substantially globular lyogel is reacted with a silylating agent to form a substantially globular silylated lyogel.